

MAJ. DOUGLASS' REJOINDER.

He Scores Indiscriminate Begging for Monuments, Emancipations and Churches. Some Philosophical Reflections.

The Editor Colored American:—My communication appearing in your issue of the 31st ultimo, commenting on the speeches made before the Second Baptist Lyceum on the preceding Sabbath, was not intended to inaugurate a personal controversy with any one, much less editor Manly. He states through your columns that he was advised by his friends to pass my allusions to him with silent contempt. The advice of his friends was not heeded however, and he takes me to task for not replying to his remarks at the time and place they were delivered. The circumstances forbade that, the meeting being about to close when he jumped to his feet, and frantically harangued the audience, condemning without reserve, the colored people of Washington, and wound up with the coarse and slangy phrase "they ought to get off the earth." Those present of course heard him, and my article was intended for those who were not present, that they might know what manner of man Manly is. That I painted his picture true to nature, is attested by letters from his home in Wilmington, and from many persons from his State resident here. The losses that he would have you believe that he has sustained by remaining on the Negro side, instead of on "the other side," did not fall upon his shoulders, but upon the shoulders of the poor, and confiding colored people whom he abandoned when he so unceremoniously left Wilmington. It was his intemperate utterances that precipitated his flight on that occasion, and gave the excuse for the murderous assaults upon the Negroes just prior to the election of that year. The articles he published in his Wilmington paper, were no more conducive to the peace and harmony between the races South, than his unwarranted reflections upon the colored people of Washington will be to aid the cause for which he assumed to speak. The colored people will contribute to the best of their ability when fairly approached. Sometimes I think that the real cause for the lukewarmness that is occasionally shown when a worthy object is put before the people, is the fact that a lack of judgment is exhibited in the selection of agents and the methods employed by them. There are so many professional solicitors among us. Men without other visible means of support, with books and petitions and endorsements, asking money for monuments, emancipation parades, fake industrial schools, etc., having only a paper existence, men who for years have done nothing else but go around among both races begging in the name of the Negro, and putting the money into their pockets. This cause now before the Supreme Court appeals to us all for support. If popular subscriptions are being solicited, and funds are being subscribed, the fact should be made known through our papers, and each week the amount with the names of the subscribers should be published. The people who give do not want to be insulted, and condemned by adventurers in our midst. The people will not respond where no credit is given except in a private way. The Lawton fund kept growing because each day the names of those who gave were published, and those whose names did not appear hurried to get on the roll of honor. You may talk all you have a mind to about parading your acts of charity before the public,

the fact remains that people want credit in this world for what they do, the rich as well as the poor; and when they do not receive it, they cease contributing. And furthermore they want to know for what purpose their money is expended, whether for lawyers fees, rail road fares or dinners—they want an accounting, such as we seldom get. I throw out these hints simply because I hear these things talked of and whippersnappers shrugged doubtfully when this question is broached of giving to aid a race cause. It will not do for solicitors to fall back on their dignity and honor, and reputation. There is a business way of doing business and a loose and suspicious way. The business way is to give an accounting before it is asked. The fault has not been so much with the people. The people, our people are usually too confiding. This is seen in our churches where enormous debts are contracted, and the people marched up to the tables Sunday after Sunday and lay down their hard earnings. I often think of the thousands upon thousands of dollars that our poor alley resident classes have laid upon the table the thirty odd years since the war, and what have they to show for it—only a lot of heavily mortgaged church buildings, the amounts remaining due on many of them being all that they are actually worth, and still the begging goes on, and no accounting that anybody can understand, save those who render the accounts.

(CHAS. R. DOUGLASS)

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